



McCabe Centre  
FOR LAW & CANCER



# Successfully creating public health law training programs

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# Acknowledgement of Country



“I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we are meeting from today and pay my respects to the Elders past and present and those emerging.”

“I extend my respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are present today.”

Cancer Council Victoria would like to acknowledge Dixon Patten Jnr – Yorta Yorta and Gunnai [www.cancervic.org.au/dixon-patten](http://www.cancervic.org.au/dixon-patten) for use of their artwork.

# Who we are



## Our vision

A world free from preventable cancers and in which all people affected by cancer have equitable access to safe, effective and affordable cancer treatment and care.

## Our mission

To promote the effective use of law for the prevention and control of cancer and other non-communicable diseases by building knowledge, expertise, capacity and networks at global, regional and domestic levels.

**WHO Collaborating Centre on Law & Noncommunicable Disease**

**WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges**





# Why focus on noncommunicable diseases?

- Noncommunicable diseases or NCDs, include heart disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes.
- World's largest cause of premature death and a major challenge to sustainable development.
- Responsible for an estimated **86% of deaths** in the WHO Western Pacific Region and **65% of deaths** in the WHO South-East Asian Region.
- By 2040, the World Bank estimates that the economic burden attributable to 4 of the major NCDs in 11 Pacific Island countries will range from 8.5% to 15.1% of GDP

# Investing in NCDs has big returns

For up to an additional

## US\$ 1.27

per person per year, in low- and lower-middle-income countries between now and 2030, we can:

### Improve health impact



Save over  
**1,700**  
lives per day



Save over  
**628,586**  
lives per year



Save nearly  
**8.2 M**  
lives



Prevent over  
**17 M**  
cases of ischemic  
heart disease and  
stroke



Reduce almost  
**15%**  
of total premature  
mortality due to  
NCDs

# Why build capacity in law and noncommunicable diseases?

- Many of the highly effective policy interventions are laws
  - Regulating risk factors
  - Governing and regulating the health system
  - Ensuring rights of people affected by cancer
- Lack of multisectoral action and need for non-health expertise frequently identified as barrier to action
- Unhealthy commodities industry extremely effective at using law to block action – need ability to counter



# Course design – 2014-2019



Primary funder 2015-2021: Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# Course design – 2020 onwards

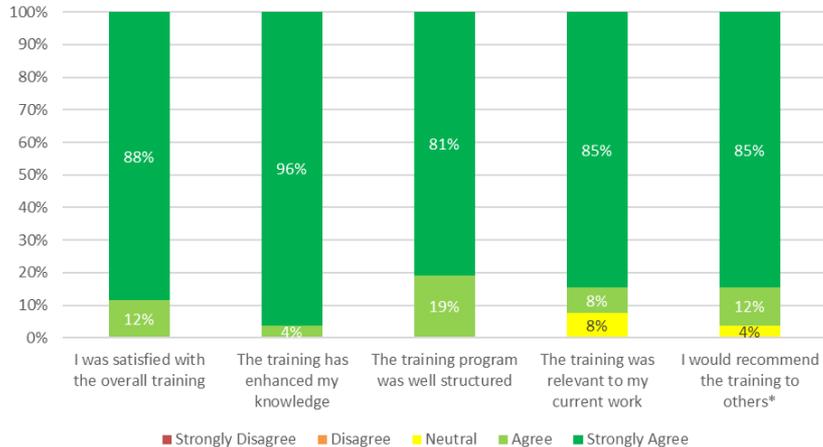
- 7 week course – online modules released weekly (asynchronous), plus live sessions held weekly (repeated over two time zones)
- Invitations distributed via WHO and to all WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control parties, more open selection process
- From 2020-22, 194 alumni trained online and 62 countries represented in online training



# Course evaluations

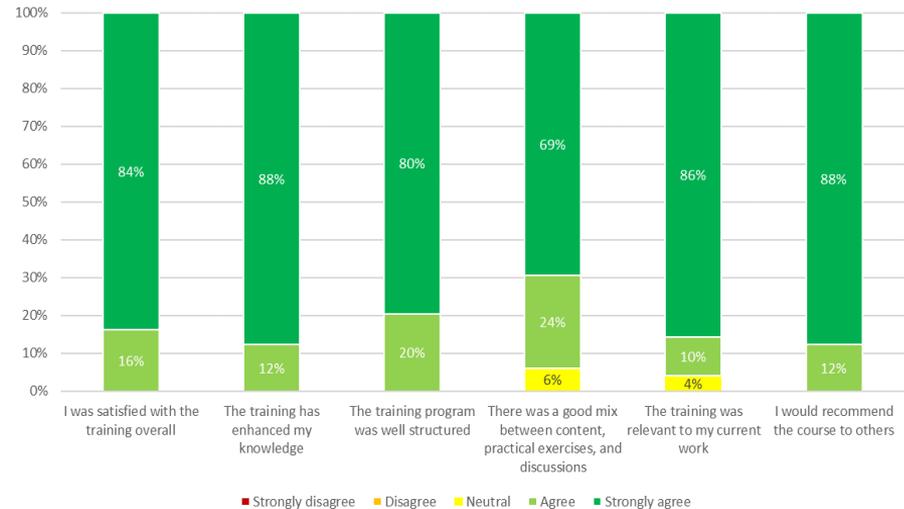
## In-person, 2019

Overall, indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements:

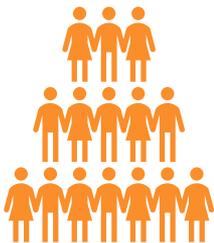


## Online, 2021

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following:



# Course impact



**320+**  
lawyers &  
policymakers  
trained across  
in-person and  
virtual courses



**80+**  
countries  
represented at  
trainings



**22+**  
countries where  
alumni have  
helped pass  
laws



**7+**  
countries where  
alumni have  
helped defend  
laws



# Course impact



# Impact in the Pacific



# Lessons

—Critical importance of follow up



# Lessons

—Finding participants who are well-placed to apply learnings and tailoring to their needs



# Lessons

—Provide as many opportunities to share as possible



# Conclusion and limitations

- Public health law training tailored to identified needs of LMIC governments is an impactful investment
- Limitations
  - No counterfactual – can't conclusively attribute impact
  - Legal interventions are collective endeavours – many others involved and providing assistance
- Ongoing questions – adapting an intensive, relationship-building course to online/hybrid formats

# Thank you

—Questions

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